

Awards Dinner

Deputy Chief Ralph Privitere (who has since been promoted to the rank of Executive Deputy Chief) became the Department's 37th Firefighter of the Year at the April 25 Awards Dinner. The ceremony, which included awards for a total of 32 Rochester firefighters, was a huge success thanks to the many people who contributed to the evening's program, our sponsors and of course the firefighters who were recognized.

There are a number of committees, individuals and businesses we would like to thank: Mayor Johnson, Fire Chief Madison and Local 1071 Union President Joe Montesano; the awards selection and dinner committees; the Rev. Raymond Graves and Rev. David Singleton, who provided the invocation and benediction; WROC-TV 8 news anchor Kevin Doran, who once again did an outstanding job as the Emcee; our guest speaker Mr. James Boyle; the Keystone Pipe and Drum Band; the Rochester Fire Department Honor Guard; School of the Arts students and piano player Sierra Bennett, Blair Thompson and Terrance Walker. In addition, without the donations of the following the evening would not have been possible: Bausch & Lomb, Branford Realty Corp, Brown & Brown Insurance, Chamberlain, D'Amanda, Oppenheimer & Greenfield, Churchville Fire Equip, Clover Capital Management, Independent Insurance Agents, Jerome Fire Equip, Mary Love & Larry Marangoni, Local 1071, F.F. Benevolent Assoc., Democrat & Chronicle, Timothy & Jessica Shanahan and Wegmans.

A review of the incidents for which the firefighters received their awards begins on page 4.

Mayor Johnson's Letter to President Bush

January 20, 2003

Hon. George W. Bush
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.D. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

At times such as these, when tensions both at home and abroad are running high, it is important that you are reassured that your partners in government - the states, counties, cities, towns, and villages of America - stand ready to do whatever they must to ensure the safety and security of our nation. The City of Rochester most certainly does.

The horrific events of September 11, 2001, drove home the sad truth that any municipality might be thrust into the front lines of a war it neither instigated nor desired, but a war that must be fought and won nonetheless. I am confident in saying that the "first responders" of the City of Rochester - the 708 sworn members of the Police Department and the 529 sworn members of the Fire Department - would willingly respond to any such call to duty. The civilians of those departments and, indeed, the full resources of the City would also support their efforts.

That being said, it is my strong hope that you will support much needed funding for municipalities so that they might bolster

their first responder capabilities. The traditional municipal public safety role has been radically altered in the aftermath of September 11, 2001. An already heavy workload has been increased by homeland security responsibilities. No duties have been lifted from us; rather, a critical load has been forced upon us. We need help in carrying that burden.

I request that you use the full powers of your office to secure the federal funding for first responders that was once promised, much needed, and long overdue. The \$3.5 billion is a wise investment. I also request that this funding not come at the expense of appropriations for other critical purposes.

Enclosed are shoulder patches from the Rochester Police Department and the Rochester Fire Department. Our men and women in uniform carry them to the scene of every emergency to which they are called. They wear them proudly, and we are proud of the service that they provide. I hope that these symbols of their service will be reminders to you of the need for adequate support of our first responders. Please accept them as well as symbols of the partnership that binds us together in common mission.

Sincerely yours,

William A. Johnson, Jr.
Mayor

The RFD's Firefighter of the Year, Ralph Privitere, shares a laugh with, from left to right, Local 1071 President Joseph Montesano, Mayor William A. Johnson, Jr. and Fire Chief Madison.



Reaching the Top

by F.F. Bruce Celento, (Q1/G1)

On March 20, six of your brothers donned full gear to brave the monstrous 19 floors of the First Federal Plaza Building to raise money for the Rochester Chapter of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (CFF). In their "friendly competition," Lt. Bob Shaw and Firefighters Roger Rebman, John Grieco, Matt Murphy, Brian Keenan and I scaled the 393 steps and raised \$1848 collectively for research to help find a cure and increase the quality of life for those affected by CF, like nine-year-old Kyle Schuhart, the event ambassador. The RFD brothers have been participating in this event for several years and have become the main attraction of the evening.

The CFF's 13th annual Stair Climb raised over \$21,000 beating last year's total by over \$4000. Lt. Shaw reached the 19th floor in 2 min. 45 sec. (2:45), F.F. Rebman in 2:55, F.F. Grieco in 3:12, F.F. Murphy in 3:18, and barely nosing out F.F. Keenan at 3:20. Lastly, me, the old timer of the group at age 59 and celebrating my 35th (and last) year on the Department. I made the 38 flights in 6:06 (hey, did anyone see a Scott airpak on the stairs?). I actually made my climb a few days before everyone else, during the trial set up. Another participant was retired F.F. Sam Obi's daughter, Dina Biehler, who braved the 19 floors again.

While Shaw, Grieco and Murphy have endured these stairs in prior CFF climbs, Rebman, Keenan and I were attacking them for the first time. I've had the pleasure of volunteering with the CFF for most of their events over the past 12 years and I plan to continue doing so during my retirement.

While six other departments participated in the evening's climb, the RFD brothers bested them all in time and, more importantly, in the amount of money raised. All of the RFD should be very proud of the brothers who took part in the event. And, to those who sponsored the six firefighters, Kyle and the CFF are very grateful.

For more info about CF or any of the local fundraisers, please call me and my wife, Diane, at 247-1966, or Grant Fletcher at the local chapter office, at 697-0777.

Congratulations again and my sincerest thanks to Bob, Roger, John, Matt, Brian and Dina for their enthusiastic participation. Kyle is looking forward to Stair Climb 2004 and seeing his RFD friends.



This incredible 9/11 memorial display was put together by Quint/Midi 6 firefighters and dedicated on the 9/11 one year anniversary. Photos and patches are housed in a beautiful lighted wooden display case with a glass door. The case was the work of none other than Quint 6's F.F. Tony Pryzbl, who is known for his woodwork and superior craftsmanship. Stop by Quint 6 at 1207 N. Clinton Ave. and see the tribute the firefighters put together to honor their fallen FDNY brothers.



Pike Derby

by F.F. Mike Quinlan, (R11/G1)

The 11th Annual Rochester Firefighters' Charity Pike Fishing Derby was held on May 29, with over 50 fishermen and non-fishermen participating. We also had two players from the Rochester Amerks show up to help us out. The weather was beautiful and the pike cooperated nicely as the guys weighed in 15 fish.

F.F. John Derleth, from Quint 5, won

first prize with a nice 10 lb. fish. F.F. Robbie Brongo, also of Q5, was close behind with a 9 lb. 9 oz. pike and F.F. Willie Jackson (pro fisherman), of Engine 7, took third with 9 lbs. 3 oz.

The Mary Cariola Children's Center will be presented with a check for \$1872, which is an all time high for the derby. Thanks to everyone that showed up and made it a great day and we'll see you next year!



F.F. John Derleth displays his winning catch.



F.F. Ted Kupping: Our Man in Afghanistan

by Lt. Donna Kubarycz, (CREU)

Firefighter Ted Kupping (CREU) returned to work in late January after spending nearly a year on active duty. He was called to join his Army Reserve Unit on January 18, 2002 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. As a Captain in the 401st Civil Affairs Battalion from Webster, Ted was sent to Afghanistan for just under nine months. He spent that time in the second largest city in the country, Mazar-E Sharif, in the northern central region of the country. Here, as the second in charge of a seven person team, he worked in a remote location far from the majority of U.S. forces. "Our normal doctrine has us co-located with several hundred other soldiers 'behind the wire.' Now for the first time we were operating in an environment more commonly associated with Special Forces -- small teams in remote locations," Ted explained.

The mission of Civil Affairs is wide ranging from supporting commanders in combat to humanitarian relief operations. Ted said that his team did that, but that they also acted more like a mini embassy. "We are the first in the line of diplomats that the local population will interact with," he said.

F.F. Kupping first set foot on Afghanistan in the early morning hours of St Patrick's Day (last year). He described how his battalion spent their first night in a windowless basement room with no lights and that it was the only building not completely destroyed at the airfield. "It was more than a little bit cold, but we were glad to finally be starting our mission," he said.

Over the next nine months Ted saw many improvements to his surroundings and had the opportunity to experience a wide range of cultural and weather conditions. He said it is hard to adequately explain to people here in the U.S. what life is like in Afghanistan. He noted that much of what was reported in the media here, while not false, "does not accurately portray the real story and is often sensationalized. They [Afghans] know that things can be better and work to improve things so that their children can have it better," Ted said. He recounted how living conditions vary from what we in the U.S. would call primitive to simple at best. "Our house was near the top of the living standard and with that we had a mud brick and concrete two story house with some plumbing and occasional electricity."

This is a country and a people that have struggled for more than a generation in a state of war. First with the Soviets and then the Fundamentalist Religious Taliban regime. What seems commonplace to us is sometimes inconceivable to an Afghan. Here is a place where modern technology often crosses paths with life conditions that seem better set in the 1700's." As an example, Ted mentioned seeing a human drawn cart being pulled through town full of color televisions.

"The Afghan people are friendly and very giving and hard working. For the most part Americans are welcomed as brothers when greeted by Afghans. One of their biggest fears is that we (Americans) will leave again as we did before and their country will fall back into chaos."

One of the many memorable experiences he shared was about the time he spent walking the grounds of Qali Jungi prison 15 miles to the West of Mazar-e Sharif. It was here that a well publicized riot among Al Qaida and Taliban Prisoners occurred in late November 2001. It was at this site that CIA operative Michael Spahn was killed, becoming the first U.S. combat casualty. It is also the place that Al Qaida sympathizer American John Walker Lindh was discovered to be a prisoner. "It was quite a stirring experience to be at this site, Ted said. "It gave us a chance to see and understand first hand what took place. To be able to ask questions of Northern alliance soldiers, who were actually involved and fought along side Michael, was by far one experience I won't forget."

In Afghanistan, besides protecting civilians from combat operations the 401st's diplomatic role became one of finding and seeking approval for various reconstruction and humanitarian aid projects. After 23 years of near constant conflict and neglect, projects were not hard to find. The largest of the projects that Ted helped oversee was the reconstruction of a 5000 student girls' school, named Sultan Razia. During the time of the Taliban this school was closed and then taken over for use as a military barrack. Destroyed by U.S. bombs in the liberation of Afghanistan, this school became one of the flagship projects of the United States. "Our reports, we were told, were being briefed to the Secretary Of Defense on a weekly basis," said F.F.

Kupping.

As he wrote back to family and friends here in the United States, it became clear that people back home could lend a hand. Over the summer, Kelly Elward, from payroll, helped organize a city wide drive to collect school supplies at local firehouses. Along with generous donations from citizens, firefighters and Wegmans, Kelly sent several hundred pounds of school supplies to Ted at his location in Mazar-E Sharif. According to Ted these supplies were not only a great asset to the mission of his civil affairs team, but also a much needed resource to an educational system that has to start from scratch. He sent home photos of the supplies being distributed to several local schools. "It was nice to be able to be involved in this collection project because I knew that what we collected was going directly to people who needed it. Because they have so little these simple supplies were greatly appreciated. Principals would line up students and have us pass out something to each student. I took many pictures that show the joy and appreciation for Rochester's help," Ted said proudly.

Ted got back to the U.S. the day before Thanksgiving. One of the things he missed most is something we all take for granted. "Besides my family, I really missed the freedom to move around and go where I wanted to when I wanted to," he remarked. He hopes not to have to get redeployed anytime soon but notes that while the Army says they are on the "bench" at present, operations in Iraq may necessitate that he and his fellow Civil Affairs Soldiers be called back to active duty in the not to distant future. In the meantime Ted is back working in CREU, is looking to find a way to bring two little Afghan children to the U.S. for schooling, is getting reacquainted with his wife of less than a year and enjoying being a new dad to son Ian.

United Way



The Rochester Fire Department once again gave more than any other City Department to the United Way's annual fundraising campaign. A total of \$113,845 was pledged. Thanks to everyone who gave and to Mary Sloan, who coordinated the Department's drive.

Dear RFD...



March 3, 2003

Dear Gardiner Station Firefighters,

We would like to begin by thanking all of you for your dedication and commitment to saving lives each and every day.

This is LONG overdue, but we would like to express our sincere thanks for saving a member of our family a few years ago. At that moment, we did not think of getting the names of the people who came to our assistance in a time of great need. Hopefully, there is some way you can review old files to know specifically who we are recognizing.

On February 4, 199, you responded to an emergency call at 115 Anthony Street. Mom went into cardiac arrest while having lunch in her kitchen. You revived her with a defibrillator and I believe a member of that team also rode to the hospital in the ambulance to assist with her care. Doctors in the Intensive Care Unit praised the firefighters. They told us had it not been for your quick response and expertise care, Mom would not have had another chance at life!

Mom (Eleanor Schraml) was in the hospital for three months and then went to Monroe Community Hospital for another month of rehabilitation. Finally she came home...something we didn't think would ever be possible on that dreadful winter day in February! Mom now uses a walker to scoot around the house, looks forward to playing cards twice a week with Dad and her sister, and even was able to go to their cottage at Conesus Lake a couple of times this past summer. She is a remarkable woman that has great faith and believes in the power of prayer. Over the last couple of years Mom has been in and out of the hospital with back fractures, a broken hip and sepsis...amazing us each and every time with her recovery. Needless to say she keeps us busy, but we don't mind -- she means the world to us.

Today Eleanor celebrates her 80th birthday. I can't tell you the number of times we praise the Gardiner Street firefighters and give thanks for your work. We realize without you Mom may not be here with us now. Please use this gift certificate to enjoy a meal in honor of all the lives you have saved through the years.

Just an added note. Until my older son was four (Billy is now a junior at Aquinas), my own young family lived on Depew Street. My husband would take him for frequent visits to your fire station. Today Billy is seriously planning on becoming a firefighter. Nothing could make me prouder -- knowing he is choosing a career to serve others. Those visits just may have helped influence his decision. Often times we never realize the affect we have on other people's lives.

In closing, I would just like to again express our sincere thanks and appreciation to all of you for the work that you do!

With much gratitude,

Mary Ellen Wagner (daughter)
John M. Schraml (son)
Jack Schraml (husband)
Eleanor Schraml (Birthday Girl)

January 6, 2003

Dear Mayor Johnson,

I am writing this letter in regards to the article I read in the Democrat and Chronicle on January 1, 2003. The article commended your mission to stop deaths by fire. In fact it will be two years in February - Good Job!

On New Year's Eve there was a fire at my house. Due to such a quick and effective response, everyone got out unharmed, and my two kitties were okay -- a fireman rescued one who was hiding upstairs. My roommate and I have gone over to the fire station and given our thanks, I would like to pass them along to you.

We asked if they needed any volunteers, but they explained that they didn't. In the newspaper article it noted there has been a lot of education in schools for kids to prevent fires and what to do if one happens. Maybe this is an area where I can be of assistance. I could go to schools. I have just graduated in graphic design and I'd like to offer my skills if you need any informational materials or posters created for classrooms. Please pass my name along to whomever takes care of these things. Let me know what you need.

Thank you again and thanks to the firemen at the Genesee Street Fire Station.

Gretchen Ettlie
Genesee Street

Dear Lt. Crandall and Fellow Firemen [Q/M5, G2]:

Thank you so much for your generous gift of \$200 towards Christmas toys to Catholic Family Center's Women's Place. You are very generous in your concern for the homeless women and children we serve, and for this we are most grateful.

The need for our homeless services remains high, especially among women and their children seeking temporary housing. Women's Place and Sanctuary House continue to be filled with people whose stories remind us of the despair and sadness that often go hand-in-hand with homelessness. However, we know that our staff and volunteers give them much more than food and lodging. We give them hope and respect, two precious commodities that often enkindle renewed purpose and a sense of dignity.

Once again, our heartfelt thanks for enabling us to be a source of encouragement and support for the homeless. Together we are making a difference in their lives, often in small but important ways.

Sincerely,

Carolyn A. Portanova
President/CEO
Catholic Family Center

To the RFD, Capt. Bart Joseph & Engine 13,

Thank you for supporting the Bausch & Lomb team and all the walkers at the Heart Walk on March 29.

Several of our walkers commented on the friendliness and enthusiasm of the firefighters and they appreciated the truck "tours" and handouts. It was the highlight of the walk for many of the children!

Thanks again for your presence and commitment to the Rochester community.

Debbie Cave
Patty Clark
Paul Trotto
Bausch & Lomb Co-Leaders
2003 Heart Walk

The deadline for the next newsletter is August 31st.

Tanker Fire

The following article was written Capt. Dan McBride (PIO) and appeared in the June 'Firehouse Magazine.'

On April 29, at 1:07 a.m. the alarm was sounded for a motor vehicle accident with people trapped. Moments later a second assignment was sent for a house fire with heavy flames showing. The responders from both assignments arrived to find an unbelievable sight; an overturned gasoline tanker and several homes fully involved and a wall of flames 35 feet high and almost 600 feet long. The tanker carrying over 12,000 gallons of gasoline overturned on a sharp turn in a residential area on West Ridge Road in Rochester New York. As it rolled over it took out a light pole and spilled its contents igniting into a huge fireball. The first in Rochester Fire Officer called for a second alarm and also for the foam truck from the Eastman Kodak Fire Department which was housed about a mile from the

companies to knock down the wall of fire on the street and gain access to the homes involved. Exposure lines were stretched to protect properties at both ends of the incident and along the back street to protect against a shower of sparks and brands.

Life Safety

Primary concerns involved setting up too close to the growing fire and operating in and around gasoline. Accountability was an issue given the size and complexity of the operation which involved companies from eight different fire departments. Reports of people trapped, the residential nature of the neighborhood and the hour all contributed to a need for quick resolution. Heroic actions by police, ambulance and neighbors alerted residents immediately following the crash. Firefighters searched houses as they became

accessible and rescued a ninety year old woman and a disabled woman and her husband from their burning homes.

Extinguishment

As city fire crews worked foam lines on the perimeters of the fire Kodak's foam truck arrived providing three lines to focus an attack on the burning tanker. With the

street and tanker fires knocked down attention turned to three serious structure fires, one totally ablaze. Rochester International Airport's Crash /Rescue foam rig arrived and took out the the most intense structure fire with it's 750gpm foam dispenser. The next several hours involved overhaul and extinguishing spot fires, while basements and sewers were checked for concentrations of gasoline fumes.

When dawn broke the fire fighting operations transitioned to environmental and demolition activities. As the fire crews picked up, in the light of day, they realized the full impact and devastation of the fire they had just fought. It could have been a lot worse but still the damage was considerable. One woman died in her home which was totally destroyed. Five civilians, including the truck driver were injured. Five firefighters and 1 police officer were treated for minor injuries. Twenty three homes were

damaged, six vehicles destroyed, and a environmental clean up is underway. Good decision making early on in the incident



with size up, sectoring and coordination and procurement of resources paid off. So did the outstanding efforts of the almost one hundred firefighters who responded to the scene.

We recieved this e-mail regarding the fire.
April 29, 2003

I am 450 miles away on Long Island. I was awoken at 6:00 a.m., with horrible news... a tanker had overturned and exploded in my Grandmother's front yard at 45 West Ridge Rd.

She is 90-years-old, she suffered a heart attack and smoke inhalation during the process of removing her, but firefighters rescued her before her house was destroyed and got her to Rochester General. She is now in stable condition.

Regrettably, the same cannot be said for another family who lived near her. My entire family is mourning your loss.

I would like to take a moment to thank all of the men and women from the Rochester Fire and EMT Departments. My entire family is indebted to you for putting your lives on the line in order to save our loved ones. You are truly heroes for the daily risks you voluntarily take so that people whom you may not know may live to see another day.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Bob Blickwede
Holtsville, NY

We also received an e-mail from another family member, who resides in Windsor, CT. She expressed her gratitude to the firefighters for all they did to rescue her Grandmother.



crash sight at Kodak Park.

Command sectors were established at both ends of the fire ground approximately twelve houses apart on Ridge Road. Another sector and additional companies were directed to the back street behind the homes exposed to a large volume of fire. A fourth and fifth alarm were called and staged nearby. Mutual aid fire companies from the county scrambled to fill in at almost every city firehouse and provided assistance for another house fire and a river gorge rescue. Initial size up at this incident presented three significant challenges.

Containment

The burning fuel flowed down the road, gasoline was entering the sewers, large fire brands and embers were being carried to the next block and the intense radiant heat and direct flame contact threatened numerous additional structures and vehicle. Foam operations were set up by the initial

3rd Annual Awards Dinner: A Special Night

Firefighter of the Year Award presented to DC Ralph Privitere, for years of distinguished service to the community. Over the past four he took the lead in organizing the community in preparation for an incident involving weapons of mass destruction. He was instrumental in establishing the Dept. of Justice's Domestic Preparedness Program in this area and has been very effective in its administration. His enthusiasm and dedication in developing a master plan, procuring equipment, identifying resources and training personnel has been the driving force in the success of this program. As the City's Emer. Manager and Dir. of Training for the RFD, his responsibilities were many, but his vision extends far beyond the city. He has developed strong ties with other cities, including NYC, Kansas City and Buffalo, to share ideas and use others' expertise to benefit our community. He also administers the federally funded Metropolitan Medical Response System grant, which brings together local hospitals, health care providers and government health organizations to develop a comprehensive medical response to a major incident. During his career, he helped develop the FF Trainee Program and was pivotal in the creation of the Office of Emer. Management, Special Ops. and CERT.



Councilman and Fire Department friend Bob Stevenson checks out some historic RFD photos.

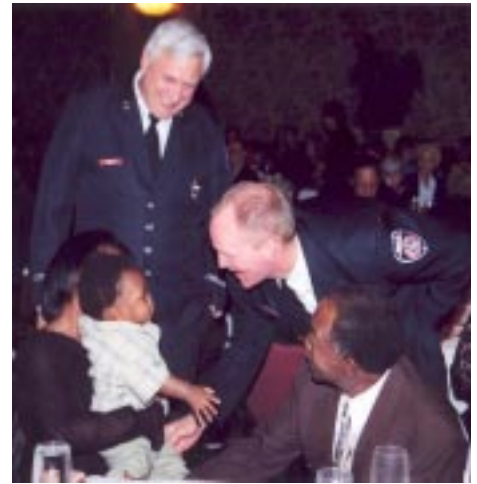
Medal of Valor, awarded to Firefighters David Burlee and Fred DeNunzio and a Unit Commendation, awarded to Quint 6/Group 2 Firefighters David Burlee, Fred DeNunzio, Hector Lopez, David Schneggenbruger and Neel Yau. On May 31, 2002, they responded to an MVA on Van Stallen St. with a child struck. As they arrived on the

scene, a concerned and adjatated crowd surrounded a vehicle under which two-year-old Mariah Ayala had been hurled to and was trapped, after being struck by another vehicle. The crowd suddenly and unexpectedly lifted the vehicle up, the firefighters were able to crawl underneath it, establish in-line stabilization and carefully remove her to safety.

EMS Life Saving Award, presented to Engine 7/Group 4, Capt. Kenneth Gippe and Firefighters James Hydock, Thomas Reina and William Lawrence. On May 26, 2002, at 1:00 a.m., Engine 7 was dispatched to 353 Magnolia St. for the emergency childbirth of a two month premature baby boy. Upon their arrival, the mother and her newborn were found in the bathroom with the baby not crying and struggling to breath. Quick actions were taken to assist both the mother and her baby. The infant's airway was suctioned to remove the fluids from birth and then oxygen was administered to both patients. The difficulties of dealing with a premature infant in the field are considerable, but were not lost on the mother, who named her baby boy, Amiracle.

Community Service Award, presented to Lt. Dan Quinlan. SEAC (South East Area Coalition) nominated Dan for his outstanding service to the neighborhood association and to the residents of Quint 9's district. Lt. Quinlan maintains a fire station Web site with a link to SEAC's, he assists in a variety of neighborhood projects and initiatives and keeps an open and friendly relationship with his southeast neighbors.

Community Service Award, presented to Lt. Robert Shaw. For the past three years Lt. Shaw has contributed to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation's Stair Climb fund raiser by participating and helping to promote and organize the annual event. He is a role model and friend to the children effected by this disease and a champion of their cause.



Above: Capt. Ken Gippe and F.F. James Hydock spend some time with Amiracle the infant they treated and saved.

EMS Life Saving Award, presented to Engine 12/Group 3: Lt. John Stoll and Firefighters Mike Pellittiere, Chris Cybul and John Hendler. On February 22, 2002, Engine 12 was dispatched to 361 Farmington Rd., for a 76-year-old male not breathing. Upon their arrival, they found Mr. Henry Boesch collapsed in his garage, without a pulse or respirations. The firefighters checked his vitals, established an airway and began respirations with a bag valve mask. Chest compressions were started as the automatic defibrillator was set up. The first shock was delivered and CPR was continued until spontaneous respirations returned. The arriving ambulance found Mr. Boesch stabilized, with a strong pulse and adequate respirations.



Channel 8 news anchor Kevin Doran interviews Jimmy Boyle, the guest speaker, live during WROC's 6 p.m. broadcast. Mr. Boyle, a retired FDNY firefighter and two-time president of the FDNY union, spoke eloquently about 9/11 and the aftermath. Sadly, his son Michael, an FDNY firefighter, lost his life at the World Trade Center. His daughters, Jean Boyle and Mary Lynch, live here and Jimmy and his wife recently purchased a home on Canandaigua Lake so that they could spend their summers here.

Unit Commendation, presented to the Fire Related Youth Unit, Fire Investigators John Wallace, Abraham Crews, Greg Boccardo and Jerry Sullivan. In 2002, the FRY Unit counseled and educated over 450 juveniles who had a history of playing with fire. As Capt. Winter wrote in his nomination, "Because of the climate in today's society these FRY interventions are becoming more difficult and complicated. Not only are the investigators talking about fire play, but they are looking at the whole family situation and providing resources for the families to utilize." He further explained that as a result of the investigators dedication, the recidivism rate has declined to 4.5%. Their behind the scene work, which is in addition to their normal fire investigation duties, do make a difference and have had an impact on the community.

Distinguished Service Award, presented to Deputy Chief Robert Watters. Chief Watters, who recently retired, provided a 32 years of high quality service to the RFD and the Rochester community. His career covered all aspects of the fire service, including suppression, communications, training and fire investigation. He always showed a willingness to take on new and complex challenges and to give 110% to whatever he did. His leadership was critical in reviewing procedures and implementing changes after the 2001 CSX train derailment and his study of the Department's promotion process concluded with successful results. Chief Madison said of Chief Watters that he "has done an excellent job, been an enormous asset to the management team and been a important and capable member of the command staff."

Distinguished Service Team Award, presented to Lieutenants Charles Steiner and Lt. Shaun Murray and Firefighter Paul Condello, Brian Keenan and Jason Bagley. On June 22, 2002, they rescued a 25-year-old female from the Genesee River Gorge. They were able to secure and remove the woman, who had injured herself in the fall and was holding onto a small tree and dangling over a 150 foot drop. Their coordination and team effort, under pressure, made a difference since time was of the essence. They were able to reach the victim, tie her off, secure her in a stokes basket, set up a pulley system and haul her to safety, all while monitoring her medical condition. Their quickness and professionalism, as well as their attention to duty and to their own personal safety, was truly a remarkable feat.



Distinguished Service Award, presented to Lt. Bob Duemmel. Lt. Duemmel with Quint 4 responded on February 3, 2002, to the ramp garage at the M&T Bank at the corner of University Ave. and Winton Rd. for a report of a man threatening to jump from the top of the ramp. Lt. Duemmel spotted a young man on the ledge of the top floor and immediately began to speak to him to get his attention. He convinced the individual to get off of the ledge and then asked if he wanted to speak to someone about his problem. The youth said that he wanted to continue his conversation with Lt. Duemmel. Bob went to the top level and encountered a frightened young man who was experiencing abuse at home. He calmed the youth and got him away from the edge of the roof as police and ambulance personnel arrived on the scene and took over. Lt. Duemmel's demeanor and professionalism defused a potentially serious incident and may have saved this young man's life.

EMS Life Saving Award, presented to Engine 7/Group 2, Lt. Willie Shea and Firefighters Roger Moynes, Bruce Clement and Chris Breed. On January 11, 2002, at 2:58 a.m., Engine 7 responded to 36 West High Terr., for a 66-year-old male with a history of cardiac illness, having seizures and trouble breathing. Arriving in less than three minutes, the crew found Mr. Edward Schneider slumped in a chair, without a pulse or respirations. After checking his vitals, Mr. Schneider was placed on the floor, an airway was established and respirations were begun with a bag valve mask. Chest compressions were started as the automatic defibrillator was set up. The first shock was delivered within two minutes of E7's arrival. This well coordinated and effective response continued until a pulse was detected and spontaneous respirations returned. The arriving ambulance found Mr. Schneider stabilized, with a strong and steady heart rhythm.

Above left, prior to the dinner, guests had a chance to mingle and view displays in the Atrium. Pictured, is Tom Flynn, Dir. of Communications for the D & C. In the photo to the right, standing are former Exec. DC Bob King and Local 1071 Attorney Matt Fusco; seated is Rev. Raymond Graves.

Medal of Valor, awarded to Lt. Scott Joerger. On November 5, 2002, Lt. Joerger responded with Engine 16 to a house fire at 368 Hudson Ave. Upon their arrival, Lt. Joerger and two firefighters worked to advance a hoseline to the second floor -- to the apartment on fire. When the hose became snagged, two firefighters went to free it. At this point the lieutenant received a radio transmission of a person trapped. Entering the structure alone, Lt. Joerger heard noises coming from the living room. Through near zero visibility Lt. Joerger located and quickly removed Mr. George Preddie, age 48, who was unconscious and badly burned.



More stars than there are in the midnight sky, that's our Department. A large contingent of Fire Department employees was recognized by the Mayor at the May 2 SuperStars of Service ceremony. Pictured above are (standing): Mayor Johnson, FF Gary Lewis, FF John Grieco, FF Greg Boccardo, Lt. Allyn Borrino, Lt. Chuck Steiner, Chief Madison, FF Bruce Celento, FF David Dunwoody, EDC Ralph Privitere, Lt. Bill Empey, DC Anthony Infantolino, Lt. Jerry Randise; seated are: FF Dick D'Imperio, Lt. OD Eisenhart, Tom Haley, Starr Vogt, Lt. John Whitley, FF Fred DeNunzio, FF Paul Skelly, and FF Terry Taylor. Descriptions of the exceptional customer service they provided are included in the current edition of the Quality Time newsletter. Congratulations to all.

Poster Contest

Miguel Castro, a student at Dr. Freddie Thomas Learning Center, won the Fire Investigation Unit's Annual Arson Awareness Poster Contest, which Capt. Darryl Winter has organized each spring for the past three years. As the winner, Miguel's design now graces two billboards, one at the corner of Draper and Portland and a second on Portland Ave. Miguel was also awarded a bicycle from Toys "R" Us. The runners up



were given tickets to Rock Ventures and the Strong Museum and each student who took part in the contest received a free ice cream at McDonalds.

The contest was judged by Councilman Bob Stevenson, Fire Chief Madison, 10-NBC reporter Jennifer Johnson and members from Engine 17, the City School District School Board, NEBCA (the North East Block Club Alliance), the FIU and the school. Great job Capt. Winter!



Welcome back! The person underneath all that Iraqi sand is F.F. Anthony Nunez. He's home after serving 6 months with the Marine's Battalion A Bravo Company of Syracuse. His unit was one of the first into Baghdad. Thank you for your service.

Firefighter Exam

Of the 827 people who signed up to take the May 31 firefighter exam, 683 actually sat for it. The test was given at the Hyatt and the Crowne Plaza. The results should be available in six to eight weeks. The second part of the exam, the C-PAT, which stands for Candidate Physical Ability Test, will be given at a later date to the top 100 finishers of the written test. Special thanks to everyone who helped with the recruitment drive, the preparatory workshops and the exam.

Upcoming Events

Local 1071's MDA picnic, June 14, Ontario Beach Park, 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

"City Showcase 2003" will take place at the Blue Cross Arena on Saturday, June 21, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Join Mayor William A. Johnson, Jr. and other community leaders at the Showcase to see the exciting projects and activities happening with the City's Renaissance 2010 Plan. There's free parking, free bus tours and free music, food and fun.

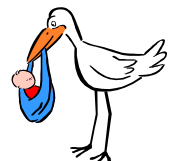
Open Houses, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., at the following fire stations: Quint/Midi 7, 740 N. Goodman St., June 21; Quint/Midi 1, 4090 Lake Ave., July 26; Engine 5, 450 Lyell Ave., August 23; and Quint/Midi 9, 315 Monroe Ave., October 4.

A 9/11 Memorial Mass of Hope and Remembrance, in honor of the firefighters, police officers and other EMS workers who lost their lives on September 11, 2001 and those who died during the past year, will be held at St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church, on Sunday, September 7, at 5:30 p.m. St. Michael's is located at 869 N. Clinton Ave. and hosted last year's 9/11 one year anniversary mass. All fire, police, and ambulance personnel, as well as friends, family and community members are invited to take part in the mass.

Capt. Dan McBride is heading a committee which will be putting together a book on the RFD's history. Be on the look out for more information on this project during the upcoming months.

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Congratulations to these proud new parents...

F.F. Ted Kuppinger and his wife, Karen, on the birth of their son, Ian McCarthy Kuppinger, who was born on March 20, with a weight of 8 lbs., 10 oz.



F.F. Sarah Bates and her husband, Jon, on the birth of their son, Wittlinger, who was born on March 18 with a birth weight of 8 lbs., 4 oz.

F.F. Jason Bagley and his wife, Kelly, who gave birth to a baby girl, Hannah, on May 14. Hannah weighed 6 lbs. 12 oz.